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9 March 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Support)

SUBJECT: Meeting of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

1. On 7 March 1956, as directed, I attended a meeting of the Board in the town of Fairfax for the purpose of hearing a projected talk by Mr. Roger Fisher on the subject of CIA's locating at Langley, Virginia. The item was scheduled on the agenda for 1500 but due to the pressure of other business did not come up until about 1520 and lasted for about 45 minutes.

2. Mr. Fisher prefaced his remarks with the statement that although he had objected to CIA's locating at Langley in the past, that since the question now seemed to be settled, his only concern was that the County should take whatever steps might be necessary to cushion the impact. Fisher stated that the building would be large enough to accommodate 16,000 employees, expected to accommodate 10,000 immediately, and it was estimated that 5,000 employees would be moving their residences to Fairfax within the next few years. He also stated that excavation for the basement of the building would involve a fantastic amount of dirt to be hauled away (I have forgotten the figure but it was several million cubic yards) and that this hauling should be so scheduled as not to interfere with present traffic on already overcrowded roads in the Langley area.

Fisher stated that he felt that there were three major complexes of problems with which the County should concern itself: (1) roads, (2) zoning, and (3) sewerage. On the roads issue he presented a position comparable to that we met in Mr. Freshill in our talk of 6 March--that additional and improved roads would be necessary, that the Federal Government should bear a substantial portion of the cost, and the County should press CIA to act as spokesman with the Congress. On the subject of zoning he mentioned that the DCI had expressed his desire to maintain the present nature of the Langley area and he (Fisher) hoped that the CIA would act in conjunction with the County to implement the Master Plan, or at least the zoning portion thereof, before the area developed sufficiently that no remedial action could be taken. On the subject of sewerage

SECRET

156-0514

SUBJECT: Meeting of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

he expressed a wish that the County would consider in its installations in the Langley area not only the requirements of CIA but also the broader requirements of present and projected residents.

Mr. Fisher concluded with a recommendation that the Board appoint a committee which might represent this Board and the various planning agencies to act as liaison with and watch-dog over CIA activities in the County in order to insure adequate protection of the County's interests.

3. The next speaker was Mr. Richard Smith, Editor of the Providence Journal. Although Mr. Smith's remarks were somewhat rambling, they were generally favorable to CIA. The gist of his statements seemed to be that, although substantial population growth in the County, including the Langley area, was to be expected, that very little of this growth would be attributable directly to the CIA; and that in any case, the Agency was prepared to be a good citizen of the County and could be relied upon to do the right thing.

4. Mr. Townsend of the Chamber of Commerce was the last speaker. He stated that it was his opinion that although there would be some detriment to the County from CIA locating there, that the benefits would far outweigh the detriments. He also expressed his appreciation of the Agency's good intentions as Mr. Smith had done on the subject of roads. He stated that he hoped that the Board would not interpose any encumbrances to CIA's carrying out its expressed intentions. Mrs. Wilkins asked him if that meant he felt that there was still some possibility that some action by the County might keep the CIA out. He replied that he did not believe so; but since there were many other areas that wanted CIA and would leap upon any morsel of encouragement, any foot-dragging by the County would only result in publicity unfavorable to the County.

5. On the conclusion of these various remarks Mr. Leigh proposed to the Board that a committee be created such as Mr. Fisher had suggested. He further recommended that he, as the Board member from Dranesville District, should be a member of such a committee. Mr. Keith, before Mr. Leigh's motion had been seconded, offered a substitute motion that the matter be referred to the Fairfax County Planning Commission or a subcommittee thereof for them to handle. Mr. De Bell seconded Mr. Keith's motion. After considerable discussion as to the propriety of referring this to the Commission or establishing a special committee, Mr. Keith's motion was carried 6 - 1, with only Mr. Leigh dissenting.

SECRET

156-0512

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6. Mr. Freshill, Chairman of the Board, identified me and made several references to the conversation you and I had with him on 6 March. Several times he queried by gesture whether I wished to speak and I indicated that I did not. At one point in the discussion preceding the voting on Mr. Keith's motion some question arose as to whether CIA had finally selected Langley as the site. Although I had delivered to Mr. Massey copies of the MCPC report for passing to the Board members during the lunch interval, they apparently had not had time to read them. Mr. Freshill stated that it had been his impression from the 6 March meeting that the selection was final and I rose to verify this impression.

7. Although nothing of outstanding significance occurred at the meeting, I obtained the definite feeling from the discussion that the Board felt generally friendly toward CIA and confident that we could be relied upon to deal fairly with the County without the necessity of their monitoring our every move.

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[redacted]
Assistant General Counsel

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